

Akinpelu 2003-0250

IN THE CLAIMS:**1. – 10. *cancelled***

11. (currently amended) A multi-service network system which provides voice, data and video network services to a customer, comprising:

 a primary network ring including at least one primary node and a plurality of secondary nodes;

 business premises equipment including a multi-service processor for packetizing and aggregating the separate voice, data and video traffic streams from the customer into a single traffic stream for communicating into the primary network, and

 a secondary network ring connect at least one secondary node in the primary network ring to the business premises equipment so as to provide the multiple network services to a plurality of customers.

12. (original) The multi-service network system according to claim 11, wherein the network system forms a wide area network connecting major metropolitan areas.

13. (previously presented) The multi-service network system according to claim 12, wherein the primary network ring includes at least two primary nodes and the plurality of secondary nodes are located between the primary nodes on the primary network ring.

14. (previously presented) The multi-service network system according to claim 12, wherein the customer premises equipment are located between the plurality of secondary nodes on the secondary network ring.

15. (original) The multi-service network system according to claim 14, wherein the business premises equipment are connected to the customer premises equipment through a tertiary network ring.

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16. (previously presented) The multi-service network system according to claim 15, wherein the links which connect the at least one primary node, the plurality of secondary nodes, the business premises equipment and the customer premises equipment are optical links.

17. (original) The multi-service network system according to claim 16, wherein the links include at least one from the group containing E1, E3, STM-1, STM-4, STM-15 and STM-64 links.

18. (previously presented) The multi-service network system according to claim 11, wherein the business premises equipment have one of bi-directional line switched ring and uni-directional path switched ring functionality.

19. (original) The multi-service network system according to claim 11, wherein the business premises equipment and the customer premises equipment use asynchronous transfer mode protocol to share the available spectrum.

20. (original) The multi-service network system according to claim 11, wherein a management system monitors the functioning of the customer premises equipment.